

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 and 36-55 are pending.

Claims 10, 16, 17, 21 and 39-55 correspond to the claims allowed in the Notice of Allowance of December 6, 1999 in co-pending Serial No. 09/172,981. The remaining claims correspond substantially to the claims that were rejected in the Office action of April 26, 1999, in which the Examiner stated that a cited reference could only be overcome through interference proceedings. Applicant intends to file the appropriate papers under 37 C.F.R. 1.608(b) to provoke an interference once a Filing Receipt is received.

Please charge any underpayment and credit any overpayment to Deposit Account
No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 3, 2000

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